

**INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE AND WAREHOUSE UNION  
PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
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**IAN KENNEDY OF ILWU, LOCAL 52 , PCPA, SEATTLE PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION**

**INTERVIEWEE:** IAN KENNEDY

**INTERVIEWERS:** HARVEY SCHWARTZ

**SUBJECTS:** Pacific Coast Pensioners Association, Seattle Pensioners Association, Labor Relations Committee, Harry Bridges Chair in Labor Studies, Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies.

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**SPEAKERS:** HARVEY SCHWARTZ, IAN KENNEDY , MICHELE DRAYTON

HARVEY SCHWARTZ 00:00:00

Okay, we should be recording now. Yes, we are recording. This is Harvey Schwartz. I'm in San Francisco. Today is the 10th of April 2019. This is part of the [International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Pacific Coast Pensioners Association] Oral History Project. And I'm here with Ian Kennedy. And— So there we go. Okay, so the last time that you were interviewed by [Historian] Ron [Magden], he got to a point where you were supposed to discuss union politics and apparently there was a feeling between you and Ron that you had discussed union politics enough. Do you have a recollection? This is an interview done some time ago?

IAN KENNEDY 00:00:47

Yeah. Well, he, we did two interviews. And I don't know what happened to the second one. He based— His daughter may still have it. But yeah, we discussed politics, I think, on that one. I don't— I should have reviewed what I had done on the first tape. But I can't, I didn't. So I don't remember exactly what happened. So we can go ahead and cover the politics if you want.

HARVEY 00:01:22

Okay, the first one did cover much of your life up to— Sort of up to retirement and close to retirement and going through a lot of issues.

IAN 00:01:30

Say again?

HARVEY

It had gone through a lot of issues up to retirement. The union politics apparently had not been covered. You had not gotten into the question of the Harry Bridges Institute, coming of the labor studies program. And all that and the Harry Bridges Chair [in Labor Studies]. So there were a lot of issues regarding your activity with the PCPA that have not been covered. Right. Okay.

IAN 00:02:01

Okay. Yeah. When I retired, I took a year away from the union and everything to do with it. And actually I was— did a major— almost a rebuild of a house. Acted as the general contractor. It took up all my time. And after I was settled with that, Art Mink, who is my father in law, was active with the pensioners and he kind of gave me a nudge. So I decided to go and join the pension group. And virtually immediately when I walked in the door, one of the pensioners made a motion that I be added to the Executive Board for the Seattle Pensioners, which—

HARVEY 00:03:06

Let me ask you a question. You had said before getting into the pensioners experience that there was information about union politics you had wanted to cover. And you talked a lot on the old tape about how you got into the, you know, you got an A book, how that all came about and the difficulties there. You know, there was a period when you basically were red-baited and you'd gone into that in pretty good depth and how you got yourself, you know, "how I got involved." You said "I was a trade unionist rather than a communist."

IAN 00:03:42

Right.

HARVEY 00:03:43

And that was nicely covered, but then there's more on union politics you want to talk about if you can, before we get to the pensioners.

IAN 00:03:55

Okay, well, I'll pick up where I don't know where I left off. That's why I got involved in politics to begin with. And as a casual— I had casualed for a while, and then there was low work opportunity. So I went back to Los Angeles and worked in animation. Returned to Seattle, I think, 1980. And at that time, my younger brother, who had been casualling and he had started organizing the casuals for the clerks. And he kind of sucked me into— (laughs) He and Dave [Chaddock?] were kind of doing all the work and they formed themselves as the Casual Checkers Association. They hired a lawyer with the idea that we would direct him. He wouldn't go off on his own tangent, he would do as we directed, and he agreed to do that. This was Mike Withey, who you may or may not know of is as far as the Silme Domingo Case, and it was actually around that time, I believe. And anyhow, he kind of wanted me to join him when he would go to meets with one of the [Pacific Maritime Association] or somebody else and so, I kind of got my foot in the door. And when we actually did get our B registration through our efforts, we took it through the grievance procedure and [Arbitrator Sam] Kagel gave us a door. And so they started advancing us to— I think they— We all went in as B people in February of [19]81. And we waited a couple of years, three, three years actually. And then some of the guys were getting antsy. They wanted us to start making a move for A registration. And he, you know, was talking to Bob [Vox?], who was the Business Agent and Bob wasn't— (clears throat) Excuse me. —Wasn't very flexible there, and there are a lot of some of the union brothers, and that's all they were at that time was just brothers, didn't want to see us advancing because it would affect their choice of jobs. So there, you know, there's some opposition. And so, Jim, my brother and I— he dragged me down to my first caucus. And we had some help from the Business Agent of a [ILWU] Local 19. And anyhow, nothing came of that but it set the stage for us to go ahead and start pushing for it. And the day that we were supposed to kick off our campaign he was killed on the job and— So we kind of, and the rest of the group kind of sat back and waited until I was feeling up to doing something. And

they just kind of pushed me into it. So we put on a push to get registered— to get advanced to A status. And they started taking a few people and then they— the work dropped again, they didn't want to take any more, and so I called a meeting of the group and we wrote a little letter, telling them why they should not stop the advancement. And the membership accepted it and continued with the registration. And I had never really liked Bob's attitude, Bob— the Business Agent. And so, you know, I wanted to get him out of office and he knew that in the long run, I was going to challenge him for this. So he started spreading the word that I was a communist. And I had never even thought about what I was politically. You know, I knew I voted Democratic, but I couldn't even say I was a strong liberal. But I understood the meaning of, of, you know, what a union was, and I became— Well, it didn't even become consciously important. But so I started running for various union offices. I was on the Puget Sound Council. I was on the Executive Board and then on the LRC [Labor Relations Committee] and then Randy Vekich, who had transferred into [ILWU] Local 52 after he lost his run for the presidency, International presidency. And he came to me and told me that if I really wanted the job, that this was the time to run against [?Vox?] because otherwise Jimmy Dean, who had just transferred into Local 52, was going to run for it. I mean, he couldn't run that year, he had to wait a while. So I went ahead and ran. Two things happened: First of all, the vote count what— The day all the ballots were picked up from the mail, because we had a mail ballot. And the day they were picked up was— turned out to be a holiday, so there's no postage. So there was some pieces of mail that didn't get in on time. And so that was one issue. Another issue was the fact that well- I won't bother with the other issue right now.

HARVEY 00:12:02

How come?

IAN 00:12:03

Well I because I lost track of it.

HARVEY 00:12:07

Okay.

IAN 00:12:07

So I'll bring it back. Anyhow, so we had the ballot count and I went in while they were counting. And when they completed the account, or thought they had completed it, I was ahead by one vote. The— One of the fellows that was doing the counting, there were two, asked me to leave. And I very foolishly left. I heard some disagreements from— coming from the counting room. And then they called me back and informed me that I had lost by one vote. So it turned out that the next day when we did have mail delivery, there were two more votes in there. And then they were both for me, but they weren't counted. And I kind of brought up the fact that they should be counted. And I did that even before they were opened. But [?Vox?] says "No, we're not going to count them," and I let that happen. So I did decide that, you know, I should challenge the count. And— But I, you know, I mean, I knew that the fellow who had— Was concerned about the fact that I had one vote ahead of [?Vox?] was smart enough that he would make sure that— I would have to really do some fancy digging. So I went and did a cursory check and he covered himself or, you know, maybe I'm wrong, I'm not gonna swear on that. I could be wrong. Anyhow, my own feeling about it is that I really didn't want it that badly. And that's why I didn't really push the issue. And then the following year, I was still on the LRC. And so that was fine, that's where I felt I was most effective. And then Jimmy Dean ran and got elected and he was pretty heavy into drinking by then. And he wasn't very— He was effective in that when we met with the employers, he was loud and would pound the table, and that helps. That got him places. But his drinking, I don't remember if he was in for one or two years and his drinking was pretty bad. And then— Oh, boy, Roger Olson, Jr. came to me and said, "Look," he said, "I want to run for Business Agent." And [he] says, "Will you not— Will you back off this time?" And I said, "Sure, you go ahead, you run. I'll stay with the executive board." And so he ran, was elected. But he had problems he had. He could only see black and white and you'd look at the contract. It was black to

him. And I tried talking with him to see it in different lights. That wasn't very successful. But I worked with him as much as— And he depended on my dealing with him and how I did the LRC. And one issue came up that I think affected his standing completely. It was a fruit ship that came in to be unloaded. And he got a call from the supercargo, who happened to have been his father. And I don't remember exactly what the issue was. But oh, they didn't hire checkers for the gangs. And their idea was that the foreman would tell them what door to go to and then they pass on the cargo at the door to the warehouseman who would stow it in the right location. We had always had a checker for that and— He— The supercargo stopped loading or discharge of the ship and called for the Business Agent. Young Roger went down. And he tried to convince the— It was Jones Stevedoring in Jones, Washington, Stevedoring. And the superintendent was adamant that he didn't need checkers. So he called for the LRC to come down. I went down and we called for an arbitration. On the spot arbitration. The arbitrator came and we made our case and the employers made their case. And as we were walking out to let the arbitrator consider how he wanted to rule, young Roger made some statement to his dad that he should not have said. And the employers heard that and they immediately ran back to the arbitrator, who called us back in and— long story short— We lost everything there and young Roger was brought up on charges.

HARVEY 00:19:39

Do you remember what Roger said?

IAN 00:19:41

No, I don't.

HARVEY 00:19:44

Did it include off color words. Was that part of the problem?

IAN 00:19:48

No, it wasn't that. It had to do with some basically smart alec remark that "we're gonna win this one way or another" or something like that. I do not recall what he did say.

HARVEY 00:20:08

Did he imply "featherbedding"?

IAN 00:20:11

No.

HARVEY 00:20:11

Okay.

IAN 00:20:12

No. Well, I guess it did because he— I think he was going to call in Local 19 Business Agent to have to help fortify the shutdown. But I'm not— I don't remember exactly. Anyhow, they brought up— the employer brought charges against Roger and I— Randy Vekich was the arbitrator although I can't remember who the— Anyway— I was trying to remember who the alternate arbitrator was other— the backup, that's who heard this case. Anyhow, when we went to LRC to— and for an arbitration against Roger, Randy Vekich was the arbitrator and I was presenting the case in Roger's favor, and I had all sorts of— past arbitrations where the business agents had done worse, but were all— that— were not punished for it, not dishonored. And at the end of this arbitration I can't remember exactly what I said but it was kind of a foolish remark.

Basically, it was a foolish remark summing up all these wins that—

[Sound of air conditioning in the background]

Is that gonna affect us?

HARVEY 00:22:29

This thing's pretty sensitive. It seems to be noting it—

IAN 00:22:36

It does.

HARVEY 00:22:36

Yeah, he has a little indicator that I check every now and then.

IAN 00:22:39

Okay. Do you want to shut it off for a minute and—

HARVEY 00:22:43

Sure.

IAN 00:22:44

No but you can't shut it— We have to go over there—

HARVEY 00:22:47

Okay, I can put this fellow on pause.

IAN 00:22:51

Yeah. [Break in recording]

HARVEY 00:22:53

Okay, so as regards Roger and his problem

IAN 00:22:59

Yeah, they so anyhow, my wise little remark, I think sunk him, so Randy gave him a year on the beach. Well—

HARVEY 00:23:15

Do you remember what you said?

IAN 00:23:16

No, I don't.

HARVEY 00:23:18

Okay.

IAN 00:23:18

It had something to do with summing up all these arbitrations that I had submitted and pointed out how they were even worse and the business agents were not punished for it. But because Roger was no longer an employee of the PMA, he was an employee of the union, that punishment would subside; would have to wait. Anyhow we were— the rest of the year— some effective and so when— But Roger's blinders, his black and white, you know, hurt him with the membership. And he couldn't understand why people weren't raving about

what a great job he was doing. So then Dean ran against him then next year and Dean won. And I was still on the LRC, if I remember correctly. So the year after that, Roger wanted to run it— Well, he didn't necessarily— He did, I guess. So he talked to me and I decided that I would run for president. He could run for business agent. Well, he didn't win, but I did. So I was present but I— (sighs) I had what I consider one big issue and that was against the Port of Seattle. And the— On the fruit ships we had always had a man come in— the incoming fruit— who would do up all the paperwork, you'd come in a couple days in advance, do up all the paperwork. And so, every— you know— so he knew where everything was supposed to go and be able to direct people. And then one year the Port decided they didn't want to spend money on him. So they didn't hire him. He went to [?Vox?] and let [?Vox?] know. And [?Vox?] it was— wasn't worth the effort. Basically, he didn't do anything about it. So that was something that always stuck in my craw. So they had one of the Port women do that job. And so when I was president, I went and filed a claim against the Port. And we had an arbitration and we're in the middle of the arbitration— and this is towards the end of the year, the term— and they kept— you know— stalling on it and stalling on it and stalling on it and putting off the— you know— And actually the the labor representative for the Port took me aside at one point and said, "You know," he says, "Look, you got you should be winning this argument," he says, "but I have to keep fighting you on it because that's my direction. I mean, I work for the Port. So I have to do as they told me to do." So you know, they kept dragging this out. And then I don't remember if I ran again or if I was beaten. I don't remember. Okay, no, I'm getting myself confused here. No, I don't remember if I took that on when I was in on the LRC or as president. I think I must have done it as president because I didn't have any other people with me fighting it. Anyway, I was out of office. So I think probably someone beat me, or I didn't want to run again, or I don't know what. But I was out of office.

HARVEY 00:28:53

Approximately what year is this?

IAN 00:28:55

Ah— God— Ah—

HARVEY 00:29:02

Approximately.

IAN 00:29:04

It would have to be in the— probably mid-'90s.

HARVEY 00:29:09

Yeah. That's what I thought. Okay.

IAN 00:29:11

And yeah, I was out of office and then I got back in office the following year again, and so I— (laughs) I went to the port's business agent who— business agent is what we would call them— And I told him that I wanted to reopen it, this issue. And he said, "Well," he said, "[ILWU] Local 9 would not be very happy." I said, "Why is that?" And he says, "Well, we gave the job [to] Local 9." Well, I wasn't gonna fight Local 9 and they were having troubles. They needed jobs. So I let that go. And I can't think of any other big issues that I got involved with. By the end of the century, I think I'd kind of even stopped running for LRC by then and just waited for retirement.

HARVEY 00:30:46

And— I had the year from the other tape, you retired. Was it '04?

IAN 00:30:51

Yeah, I believe it's '04. Yes.

HARVEY 00:30:54

Yeah. And then you took a year off to work on your house.

IAN 00:30:58

Yes.

HARVEY 00:30:59

And then you mentioned you got back in.

IAN 00:31:01

Yes.

HARVEY 00:31:02

Or became active. After a year and a half you became active in the pensioners.

IAN 00:31:06

Yes.

HARVEY 00:31:09

And then, major issues there?

IAN 00:31:16

Well, you know, the pensioners don't have any conflicts with the employers. We do our best as far as supporting the union in their activities. And so, you know, the first few years I didn't, I mean, I was on their executive board, and they changed that after a couple of years because it turned out they would have the executive board meeting before the membership meeting. And very few people showed up that weren't on the executive board for the membership meeting. And then probably— Let's see if I retired in '04, '05, '08, probably around '09, Carl Woeck— No, it was after that. We did a convention in 2011 and I was asked to chair it. Well, I and then we decided that Karl Woeck would co-chair it with me and so we did a lot of work to open it up to all of the Washington Area, and I think we put on a pretty decent convention for the pensioners. And after that the president of the pensioners was— became ill and didn't run again. So Carl Woeck decided that he'd run for pension— for president— talked me into running for vice president. And Carl is a surprise because Carl felt we had more things to do than just be a backup. And so, you know, he started actually putting me to work. Yeah. To go back further: When I was an active member, I was never elected to go as a caucus delegate, but I attended on my own dime on a regular [basis] for all caucuses. I think I missed one or perhaps two since 1984. So, the caucus delegate for the pensioners for the Seattle Pensioners, was a fellow named [Paul] McCabe. And I mean, he was their man for as long as I could remember. And he came to me and he said, this was probably two or three, maybe— about— two or three years before I retired. And he said to me, he says, "When you retire, I want you to take my job." So I said, "Sure, I'll do that." Not thinking anything about it. So anyhow, he passed away about the time I got involved with the pensioners again. The president would find someone to send to cover it and so then I decided to run for that position. And so I've had it for eight years? And so that's really where I put a lot of my time in. And so I supported Carl when in his activities and Carl was not necessarily the best speaker in the world, so he often had me do the dirty work. So we did some good things. When we had— Which I think is the greatest effort we did— Was to— Ron Magden, a historian, had discovered In Nanaimo, BC, the remains of a plaque for some sailors— or longshoremen who were killed— Seattle longshoremen— who were killed in a ship explosion in Nanaimo. And they were buried there. But their plaques were all— Well, he only found remains of one or two. I don't remember how many. And so Carl—he and Dr. [Ron] Magden, and myself were

talking about it and felt that there should be a memorial put up for them. And I— Although Carl was going to take the leadership on that, I did most of the legwork on it. He did— He took care of the monument. He arranged for the monument. He arranged with the church to have us replace and get the monument up. And anyhow that went over very successfully. We had all the Canadian leaders of the ILWU [and] we had Willie Adams [ILWU International Vice President at the time] speak and we put on a great lunch there and— So I mean, to me that was our greatest accomplishment there.

HARVEY 00:38:39

Was that at the time the Vancouver convention? BC? The pensioners?

IAN 00:38:44

No, we did it in the middle of the year.

HARVEY 00:38:48

Oh, you did, okay. And I just heard about it. From Ron.

IAN 00:38:53

Well, what we did is we invited the The [ILWU] Vancouver Division president and officers and the Vancouver Island actives and their pensioners. We worked— we did work with their pensioners and we attended a few of their picnics. So it happened, I think, in July.

HARVEY 00:39:23

Okay. In that area. About what year was that approximately? 2013? '14? In there something like that?

IAN 00:39:35

Yeah. '14.

HARVEY 00:39:37

Yeah.

IAN 00:39:37

Maybe '15.

HARVEY 00:39:39

Okay.

IAN 00:39:40

I might be able to tell if I look at my phone.

HARVEY 00:39:43

Ah, okay.

IAN 00:39:44

I've got a copy of talking with the hotel when I set up the arrangements there. And it might have the date on it.

HARVEY 00:39:56

Okay.

IAN 00:39:57



Let me check and see what I got here? All right, that would be under messages, I think. Yeah, it was July of '15.

HARVEY 00:40:15

Okay.

IAN 00:40:21

You brought up the issue earlier of— Or the question about my political leanings. And one— At one point when— Probably back in the late '80s or mid '80s, I— One of my union brothers came to me and wanted to know if I was a communist and I said "no."

And he says, "Well, are you a socialist?"

And I says "No."

He says, "Are you an anarchist?"

I says "No."

He says, "Well, what are you?"

And I thought about it a minute because I have never thought about putting a label on me. I says, "Well, if you have to have something, I guess I'm a trade unionist."

And then, just probably a year and a half ago, Michelle [Drayton], I supported a relative of mine, a Jewish relative of mine from Canada was visiting and he asked what our religion was. And Michele [Drayton] thought about it for a few minutes and she said, "Well, I think the union is our religion." Pretty well sums it up!

HARVEY 00:42:02

Yeah!

IAN 00:42:04

And so I'm yeah, that's where I stand. Anyway—

HARVEY 00:42:18

There was the whole question also of the Harry Bridges Chair activity and all that. Okay that Ron had mentioned you had been involved in or somewhere, picked up that you were very much involved in that. David Olson was involved from the UW. There's a whole story about that. You know, from—

IAN 00:42:40

Okay. Okay, well, the chair, well, probably it was in 1991 or maybe '90, some of the old timers at that time got together— Bob Duggan was involved— and wanted to do— This is from Seattle itself. None of the other locals at this time— Wanted to honor Harry. Bob at that time was a trustee or on the board— Anyhow at the University of Washington. And they decided to— That it would be great to establish a chair and Bob had contacts there and he talked with David Olson and Chuck Berquist and talked to the [University of Washington] President [William P. ] Gerberding and Gerberding was in favor of it. He took it to the [University of Washington] Board [of Trustees]. And they didn't want it. He says, "Well, we're gonna have it anyhow."

And my— I mean, I was still pretty green. And you know what I heard about it. I was against it.

HARVEY 00:44:34

Really? How come?

IAN 00:44:36

Well, I didn't see that the University of Washington would have enough professors who were progressive enough to be able to keep it going because it wasn't a lifetime chair. It alternated every two years, it was supposed to alternate and— But when I saw that it was going to happen, you know, I put up my money and supported it too. But, you know, [I] didn't pay a lot of attention. And so, [UW Professor of Political Science] David Olson had the first two years. And then [UW Professor of History] Chuck Bergquist took it over John Halgren, who was [a] foreman, was involved in it. And I don't know to what extent at that point. But he came to me at one point after Chuck was the holder of the chair, and he says, "Chuck wants people involved in the arts" or "with knowledge of the arts involved in the chair." And he knew I had an art background and so he wanted to know if I'd be willing to do it. I thought about it. I thought, "Well, why not?" And I didn't. I asked him what it entailed. He says "One meeting a year." (laughs)

HARVEY 00:46:17

(laughing) Famous last words!

IAN 00:46:18

Yeah. So I agreed and you know, I didn't see any— In the two years that Chuck had it or probably a year and a half after I got involved. (laughing) I didn't see any need for me there. And then [UW Professor of Political Science] Margaret Levi got the Chair. And she was— She sucked me in. (laughs) She put me to work. And you know, nothing big but— Just little things and so I got more and more involved with it as that period went on and then when she gave it up. Let's see. I think that's when [UW Professor of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences Daniel] Jacoby got the Chair. So here was the fourth older.

HARVEY 00:47:31

Yeah.

IAN 00:47:32

And a young woman— Well, not so young, but a woman. They set up the labor studies office and hired— I think Margaret did that— And hired a fellow who was actually I think a paraplegic who ran it for a while [Steve Marquardt] and then probably around the time that Jacoby got the chair, they hired Sarah Laslett. And Sarah was looking for an empire. She wanted to build herself— Dan didn't even have a key to the office. I mean, it didn't help the fact that he was in Bothell. But you know— And he pretty well gave her the run. And she was doing— Pulling things away from the ILWU. I mean, she was running her own show and she was running it to involve students and faculty and disregard labor. Which irritated me (laughs). And so I started fighting with her and you know I mean when I found out that Dan didn't have a key, I got really pissed off and started making noise about it and I don't know exactly— All right, Dan had it for one term, I think. And then Michael Honey got the chair and I don't remember how he got rid of— And how— Well, Michael was involved in Tacoma, so he really— Things kind of dried up in Seattle for a while there. There wasn't a lot happening and I don't remember if Michael or— was— He tried to involve me in it, too. But Michael would start something and not finish it with the programs at the university. And so, I liked the guy; I had good relations with him, but I don't feel he was a good holder of the Chair. Then [UW Professor of History] Jim Gregory,

HARVEY 00:50:55

[Start here] You know, I think so.

IAN 00:50:58

Jim came along and I'd met Jim at various other functions and I thought he would be a good person for the chair. And, I mean, I turned out right there and Jim did a lot of work. And Jim kept encouraging me to be involved. And when he brought [me] to the Visiting Committee [and explained] the need for a labor archives, he said I'm going to pass around a paper. [He said] I want people to sign up who are willing to work on the fundraising. So he passed this out. And, well, first of all, he asked, he asked or prior to that, he had asked me if I would stay involved. And I said, "Sure." So he, he passed around this sheet of paper for people to be involved in the fundraising. And I knew nothing about fundraising. So I didn't sign up. So, at the end of the meeting, he got the sheet of paper back and he looked at the names on it and came over to me and Susie and [said] you didn't. You didn't sign up for my committee, as well. I don't know anything about it.

And he turned, he looked at me and says, "Well," he says, "You're on it!"

And walked away. So there I was, a member of the committee. And so we started raising funds. And I felt that it's something that the union really needed. And so he— Something wrong, Michele?

MICHELE DRAYTON 53:33

Yeah.

IAN 00:53:39

Whatever I will take— Oh, yeah, that's okay. Thank you.

He, you know, we worked on it and got donations predominantly from the pensioners and [a] little bit of money from [ILWU] Local 19, I think and—

HARVEY 00:54:06

What did you do yourself on the committee?

IAN 00:54:08

What did I do?

HARVEY 00:54:09

Yeah.

IAN 00:54:11

(laughs) Raised money! (laughs)

HARVEY 00:54:12

I mean, but how?

IAN 00:54:14

Oh, well, I saw that we weren't raising the money we needed. So I wrote up a resolution and took it to the [Coast Longshore Division] Caucus. I was going to look for around \$10,000. And I started talking— When I got down to the Caucus, I started talking with some of the powers from Southern California and one of them says to me, he says— Because I had never paid attention to the funds that the [ILWU] Coast Committee had— Anyway, he said to me, says, "Look," he says "They've got a lot of money. You go in there and you ask for \$100,000."

And I'm thinking "that's a lot of money."

So anyway, I went and changed my resolution and got Local 19 to present it and then I spoke on it and got \$100,000! (laughs) I was figuring they would knock it down to [\$50,000]! So I got that and we were able to get involved and start the process and lined up Conor [Casey, Head of the Labor Archives of Washington] and —

HARVEY 00:55:29

Wow! What meeting was this that you got the hundred thousand? Was it one of the International conventions or?—

IAN 00:55:55

No, it was— Well—

HARVEY 00:55:57

Longshore Caucus?

IAN 00:55:58

It was longshore. This was strictly longshore.

HARVEY 00:56:00

Longshore caucus. Okay.

IAN 00:56:01

Yeah, I didn't go to the Convention, the International because I felt that we didn't want to spread the work too far abroad. I wanted to— We wanted to keep it as much Washington and longshore ILWU Longshore Division and then broaden it out later. Because we had a stack of— Or they had a stack in the library of boxes of longshore history that wasn't getting touched.

HARVEY 00:56:22

Where were these stacks located?

IAN 00:57:03

At the University of Washington.

HARVEY 00:57:05

Okay.

MICHELE DRAYTON 57:06

In their Special Collections, but you know, it was sitting in cardboard boxes just collecting dust.

HARVEY 00:57:13

Right.

IAN 00:57:17

And so when they hired Conor and they established a [Labor Archives] Advisory Committee for him, then Jim told me I was on the Advisory Committee.

HARVEY 00:57:38

Were you involved in the hiring process to hire Conor?

IAN 00:57:41

No, No, I wasn't. [ILWU Archivist and Education Director] Gene Vrana was involved in that. As a matter of fact, Conor worked for Gene when Gene was the archivist, librarian and— Whatever the hats he wore there—[Director of Educational Services, Librarian, and Archivist].

HARVEY 00:57:58

Yeah. —Until he retired. Conor worked as an intern, I think, for him for a short period of time. Gene recommended that we hire him. He was on the hiring committee. I think there was him and probably Jim— Yeah, Jim and the head of the [University of Washington] Libraries at the time.

HARVEY 00:

The Forty Niners could use Gene Vrana because Gene Vrana has a good eye for horseflesh. (laughs)

IAN 00:58:44

Oh! (laughs)

HARVEY 00:58:45

He really does. He's picked some winners!

IAN 00:58:49

Okay, good. So anyhow, I mean, when we weren't getting enough money in— Probably the second year, maybe it was— No, it must have been the year after— I went. I wrote up another resolution and went after another hundred thousand from the union. And got that and our great International President [Bob McEllrath] was not very happy about that. But the membership supported me.

HARVEY 00:59:36

Who's president at that moment

IAN 00:59:37

McEllrath.

HARVEY 00:59:38

Oh he was?

IAN 00:59:39

Yes.

HARVEY 00:59:39

Okay.

IAN 00:59:40

Yes.

HARVEY 00:59:41

Why was anyone— Why was he not? Why was he less than enthusiastic?

IAN 00:59:45

I'm not quite sure. I don't think he was ever a fan of the Chair. And I don't [know] why, he and I have never gotten along to any extent. He's always tried to keep a distance from me and I don't know why initially. And it may be because he was a heavy drinker and I'm a very light drinker and— You know— I mean he surrounded

himself with the "bully boys," the Jim Dean's— Those [who] drank. And anyhow—We looked like we've got things fairly stable with the Chair. So, I've kind of— this last year, anyhow I've been backing off a little bit. But I've found that Andrew [Hedden, Associate Director, Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies], who is running the Center, looks for my approval with everything they do. And now they've formed a subcommittee of the Visiting Committee because they want to expand and they give away— They've been building up a series of scholarships and fellowships over time and most of the money has come from the [ILWU] pensioners. And Andrew has gotten to the point where virtually everything he passes through me— gets my response to— And I've always wanted to see it go towards— Alright: They give what they call a minor in labor [studies]. But it's basically a couple of classes that are taught every year. And then whenever somebody else may have something that has to do with labor, they suck it in towards— So they'll— But it's not necessarily continuous, maybe just for the one year. So anyway, our attempt now is to establish sufficient funding so that we can establish a firm minor with the intention of going after a major in labor history, or labor. Which is something I've always— In fact, I brought that up, probably even before we set up the [Labor] Archives and started working on the Archives I brought that up and Jim was very adamant against it never happening.

HARVEY 01:03:51

Jim Gregory?

IAN 01:03:52

Yeah, he said, "The agreement was there would never be labor in history at the University of Washington." That was the agreement in establishing the Chair.

HARVEY 01:04:02

Okay.

IAN 01:04:03

Well, now we're all talking about it. They came to me and asked me what I thought about the idea. Of course, I'm all for it. So that's where we're going. Yeah. It makes sense because of the strength of the program.

HARVEY

Do you work very much with Conor Casey?

IAN

Yeah. Well, I mean— I guess that's a relative term. I work with him when he calls upon me.

HARVEY 01:04:39

(laughs)

IAN 01:04:40

Like I say, I'm still on the Advisory Board. So I'm at those meetings and whenever I can help him out, I do.

HARVEY 01:04:51

That's great. I got a question for you. This is one I always ask. What major situation issue or whatever have we missed? Have I missed? Have I failed to bring up?

IAN 01:05:06

Well, I think you brought up more than I thought about. (laughs) So I can't think of anything more.

HARVEY 01:05:15

The other question I sometimes ask is, you know, looking back. Reflections, you know— What it all meant? I mean, it's pretty obvious what it all meant to you. But, you know, I usually— It's an open question. Looking back, you know, last thoughts.

IAN 01:05:33

Well, I think people give me too much credit. I mean, I've just done what I thought was the right thing to do and at the right time, or the wrong time, whichever it was, and that's, but I don't feel I did anything outstanding or—

HARVEY 01:06:01

Well, you pulled \$200,000 out of the hat for a [UW] program, which is a very strong one!

MICHELE DRAYTON 66:07

[Inaudible in background]

IAN 01:06:07

Well, yeah. (laughs) Well, that was a stroke of luck. I mean, we just happen to talk to the right people and they put me in the right direction and [we] got there.

HARVEY 01:06:32

Sure. That's great. Anything else to add?

IAN 01:06:36

No, I don't think so. I'm leaning towards weaning off of all of these [things]. I did get beat when I ran for Caucus delegate from the pensioners this year. A couple of years ago, when Carl had stepped down from president, he wanted me to run. I didn't want to run for president. I don't. When they had the elections this year, there's a couple [of] guys who weren't my fans who talked [to] other people to show up for the membership meeting when they were going to run for all these positions against me. And they were successful. The only position— The guy who took the presidency, which both Carl and I felt were screwing up— He thought— He wasn't expecting Carl to run. And so Carl and I had been talking and we didn't like the way he managed money. So at first we were talking about us running for trustee. But you know, we felt the trustees were responsible. So instead of running against the trustees, I talked Carl into running for president again. I don't think I had to work too hard at it. And Sam Junio, who was the president for the year, wasn't expecting Carl to run and he helped organize this group against me. But Carl won— (laughs) and I didn't. But that's not an important thing to me because what I do I can do with or without the title. And I know— First of all, I know Carl is going to utilize me as much as possible. So a title isn't important. But I'm also, you know, I mean, I'm 83 years old. It's— I feel I've done my share and I want to back off. So we've got a convention coming up in two years that I told Carl I'd work on with him. And really, that's about all I want to do. Now, let me go back to being a painter and doing—

HARVEY 01:09:48

Yeah.

IAN 01:09:48

—being creative.

HARVEY 01:09:51

That's really— Thank you.

IAN 01:09:53

Thank you.

HARVEY 01:09:53

Much appreciated. Is it lunchtime now?

IAN 01:09:58

Yeah, anytime you're ready!

HARVEY 01:09:59

Okay. Great. Thank you!